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Economic Development and Trade

Policy Development and Coordination Branch

Monthly Economic Review

MARCH, 1991



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ALBERTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

MONTHLY ECONOMIC REVIEW

MARCH, 1991

PREPARED BY:

ALBERTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRADE
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION BRANCH
APRIL 18, 1991
(PRODUCED ON ASIST)

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CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS MARCH, 1991 Highlights

Employment/Unemployment: Alberta's unadjusted unemployment rate increased slightly, from 8.2% in February to 8.3% in March 1991, but remained the lowest rate in Canada. The level of unemployment increased by 3,000 persons over the same three month period while the number of employed increased by 9,000. By industry, unemployment rates declined in mining, retail trade, health and social services, and accommodation food and beverages, remained unchanged in construction and increased in the four other categories listed in this report.

Housing: The total value of building permits in Alberta declined by 47.2% in January 1991 compared to January last year, despite a 72% gain in permits issued in the institutional/government category. Total urban dwelling starts decreased by 60.3% in February 1991 over February 1990 with losses posted in all major categories.

<u>International Travelers</u>: The total number of non-residents entering Alberta increased by 9.4% in February 1991 over February 1990. Entrants from the U.S., Germany, Switzerland, the U.K., and Hong Kong increased while values for the Netherlands, Japan and Australia declined. (Note: U.S. figures exclude same day entries. See data table for additional note).

<u>Domestic Trade</u>: Restaurant, Caterers and Tavern Receipts increased by 5.2% in December 1990 over December 1989 bringing the annual rate of growth to 7.8%. The total value of retail trade in January 1991 declined by 4.4% compared to January 1990, a decline not as severe as the 8.1% drop for Canada as a whole.

Manufacturing: The value of manufacturing shipments increased by 3.3% in February 1991 compared to February 1990 with gains registered in 7 of 14 categories listed in this report. On a year-to-date basis, Alberta's rate of growth at 7.6% was the second highest in Canada.

Energy: Production of both crude oil and equivalents and of natural gas increased in the final month of last year, by 3.5% and 4.9%, respectively. Moderate declines in both categories were registered on an annual basis. Rig activity declined slightly in March 1991 compared to March 1990 with the number of rigs drilling down 1.7%.

Exports: The total value of Alberta exports increased by 35.3% in January 1991 compared to January 1990 with gains posted in all major categories except for 'other' products. The increase was the highest of any Canadian region and well above the 1.8% national rate of growth.

<u>Bankruptcies/Incorporations:</u> Both business and consumer bankruptcies increased in February 1991 compared to February 1990, by 33.7% and 64.6%, respectively. New business incorporations of Alberta firms declined by 13.2% over the same period while non-Alberta incorporations declined by 16.5%.

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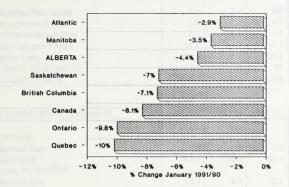
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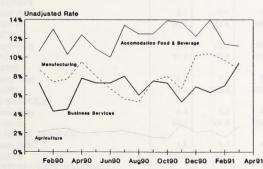
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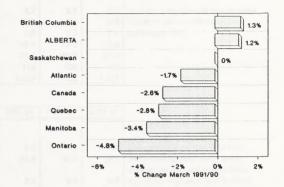
RETAIL TRADE, PROVINCES



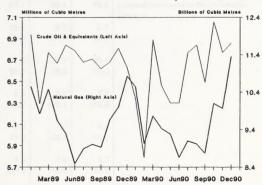
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, ALBERTA Selected Industries



EMPLOYED, PROVINCES



ENERGY PRODUCTION, ALBERTA



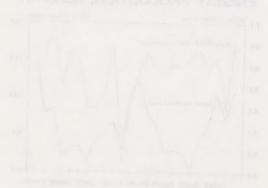
EMPLOYED, PROVINCES



RETAIL TRADE, PROVINCES



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UNIEMPLOYMENT RATES, ALBERTA



CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS

March 1991

UNEMPLOYMENT (unadjusted)	JAN-90	FEB-90	MAR-90	JAN-91	FEB-91	MAR-91
Alberta						
a) Unemployment Rate (total)	7.5	7.3	6.9	8.7	8.2	8.3
b) Male Unemployment Rate	7.9	7.6	7.0	9.5	8.9	8.9
c) Female Unemployment Rate	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.9	7.3	7.6
d) Youth Unemployment Rate	12.4	12.1	11.6	12.1	13.5	13.8
e) Participation Rate	71.3	71.5	71.5	71.4	71.5	72.0
f) Unemployment (total - 000's)	98	95	91	116	109	112
g) Employed (total - 000's)	1,202	1,209	1,215	1,209	1,220	1,229

Alberta's unemployment rate increased slightly in March 1991 compared to February 1991.

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT (unadjusted)	JAN-90	FEB-90	MAR-90	JAN-91	FEB-91	MAR-91
Alberta						
a) AGRICULTURE						
Unemployment Rate	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.3	1.6	2.8
Employed (000's)	82.3	83.2	84.1	86.9	86.8	89.
b) LOGGING & FORESTRY	THE REAL PROPERTY.					
Unemployment Rate	13.3	4.0	9.1	2.6	0.0	6.8
Employed (000's)	2.6	2.4	3.0	3.8	3.3	4.
c) MINING			100		4.11	
Unemployment Rate	6.2	7.2	7.5	4.2	4.8	6.
Employed (000's)	65.5	67.5	68.6	67.1	69.4	70.
d) MANUFACTURING						
Unemployment Rate	8.7	7.4	7.7	10.4	9.7	8.
Employed (000's)	94.8	93.4	96.3	89.9	94.4	94.
e) CONSTRUCTION			1111	ARS		
Unemployment Rate	19.1	19.0	15.9	27.5	25.4	25.
Employed (000's)	77.0	72.9	74.8	68.9	69.3	72.
1) RETAIL TRADE	991 10-44	BEI	and I	001 750		
Unemployment Rate	8.3	7.2	7.0	8.3	8.5	7.
Employed (000's)	156.3	156.4	156.3	158.2	156.4	149.
g) BUSINESS SERVICES	100 800	27 1 25	200	1.01	201	
Unemployment Rate	7.3	4.3	4.5	6.3	7.0	9.
Employed (000's)	63.9	67.3	69.6	71.5	69.4	68.
h) HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES				150		4 300
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.3	4.0	4.4	3.8	3.
Employed (000's)	115.3	115.2	112.4	. 117.1	118.3	118.
i) ACCOMODATION FOOD & BEVERAGES						
Unemployment Rate	10.6	13.0	10.3	14.0	11.4	11.3
Employed (000's)	80.8	81.2	82.2	76.7	82.3	82.

Unemployment rates declined in the manufacturing, retail trade, health & social services, and accomodation food & beverage categories in March compared to February 1991, increased in agriculture, logging & forestry, mining, and business services, and remained unchanged in the construction industry.

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		JANUARY			DECEMBER	1		JANUARY	
			PER-			PER-			PER-
			CENT			CENT			CENT
BUILDING PERMITS (\$millions)	1990	1991	CHANGE	1989	1990	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE
Alberta									
a) Total Value	239.9	126.7	-47.2	164.6	158.8	-3.5	239.9	126.7	-47.2
b) Residential	121.9	48.3	-60.4	101.0	52.3	-48.2	121.9	48.3	-60.4
c) Industrial	15.2	9.5	-37.5	11.8	25.3	114.4	15.2	9.5	-37.5
d) Commercial	86.9	41.4	-52.4	32.8	57.4	75.0	86.9	41.4	-52.4
e) Institutional/Government	16.0	27.5	71.9	19.0	23.8	25.3	16.0	27.5	71.9

The total value of building permits decreased by 47.2% in January with losses posted in all but the institutional/government category.

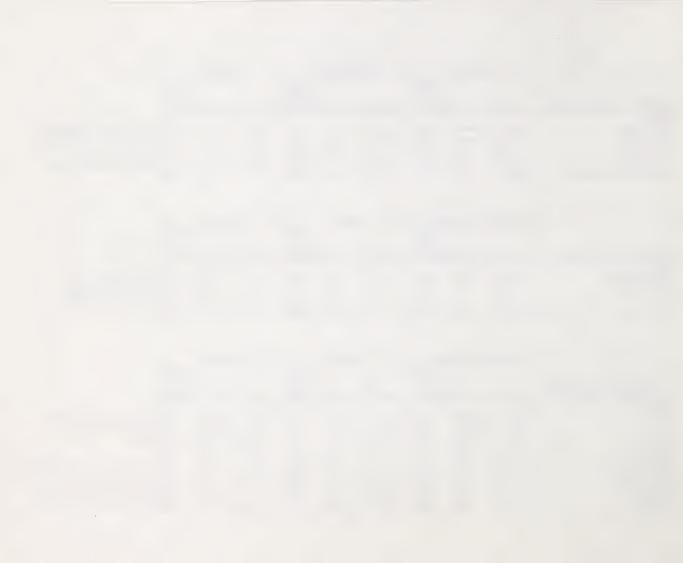
	JANUA	RY - FEB	PUARY		JANUARY		FEBRUARY			
			PER-			PER-			PER-	
			CENT			CENT			CENT	
DWELLING STARTS (urban)	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE	
<u>Alberta</u>										
a) Single Detached	1,933	679	-64.9	979	297	-69.7	954	382	-60.0	
b) Two Family	166	48	-71.1	116	30	-74.1	50	18	-64.0	
c) Row	135	93	-31.1	100	73	-27.0	35	20	-42.9	
d) Apartments	21	0	-100.0	3	0	-100.0	18	0	-100.0	

Urban starts declined in all categories in February 1991 compared to February 1990.

	JANUA	RY - FEBI	RUARY		JANUARY		FEBRUARY		
			PER-			PER-			PER-
A. INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS			CENT			CENT			CENT
NON-RESIDENTS ENTERING	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE
<u>Alberta</u>									
a)Total	42,281	43,669	3.3	21,144	20,555	-2.8	21,137	23,114	9.4
b)U.S.A	27,135	27,875	2.7	13,623	13,141	-3.5	13,512	14,734	9.0
c)Germany	1,052	1,282	21.9	389	424	9.0	663	858	29.4
d)Netherlands	326	266	-18.4	153	165	7.8	173	101	-41.6
e)Switzerland	367	393	7.1	195	156	-20.0	172	237	37.8
f)United Kingdom	1,713	2,177	27.1	694	878	26.5	1,019	1,299	27.5
g)Hong Kong	128	129	0.8	84	59	-29.8	44	70	59.1
h)Japan	642	908	41.4	395	703	78.0	247	205	-17.0
i)Australia	526	463	-12.0	285	284	-0.4	241	179	-25.7

The number of travelers entering Alberta increased by 9.4% in February.

(Note:Figures given are for non-residents entering Alberta directly. Consequently, actual totals will be understated as significant numbers of travelers enter via other provinces. This movement will not be reflected in this table.)



	JANUA	JANUARY - DECEMBER			NOVEMBER	3	DECEMBER			
			PER-			PER-			PER-	
B.RESTAURANT CATERERS &			CENT			CENT			CENT	
TAVERN RECEIPTS (\$ Min)	1989	1990	CHANGE	1989	1990	CHANGE	1989	1990	CHANGE	
Alberta	1,592.2	1,715.9	7.8	130.8	140.0	7.0	137.3	144.5	5.2	

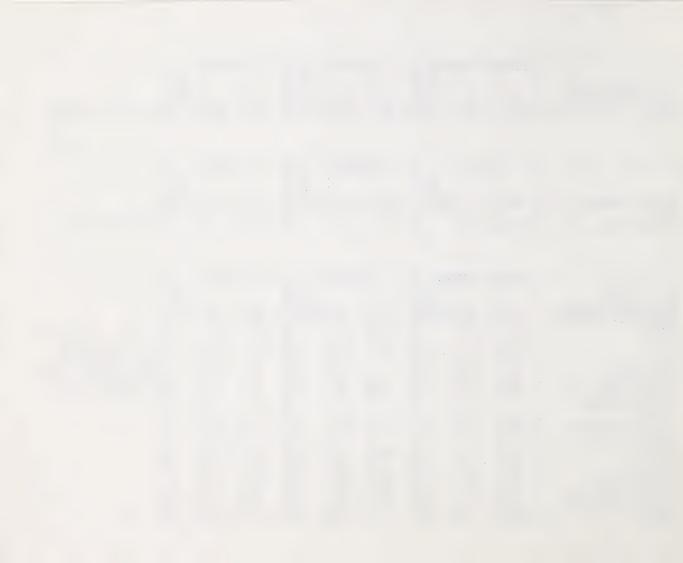
Receipts increased in December.

	JANUARY				DECEMBER	3	JANUARY			
			PER-			PER-			PER-	
			CENT			CENT			CENT	
RETAIL TRADE (\$millions)	1990	1991	CHANGE	1989	1990	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE	
Alberta										
a) Total All Stores	1,396	1,335	-4.4	1,953	2,020	3.4	1,396	1,335	-4.4	

Receipts declined in January.

·	JANUA	ARY - FEBI	RUARY		JANUARY			FEBRUARY	1
MANUFACTURING			PER-			PER-			PER-
(Value of shipments of goods			CENT			CENT			CENT
of own manufacture \$millions)	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE
<u>Alberta</u>									
a) Total	2,953.7	3,178.6	7.6	1,492.6	1,669.4	11.8	1,461.1	1,509.2	3.3
b) Food	660.0	721.3	9.3	338.3	377.9	11.7	321.6	343.4	6.8
c) Beverage	44.7	56.3	26.0	21.4	27.6	29.0	23.3	28.7	23.2
d) Primary Metal	149.0	137.8	-7.5	81.7	74.3	-9.1	67.3	63.4	-5.8
e) Metal Fabricating	167.9	141.1	-16.0	78.3	68.9	-12.0	89.6	72.2	-19.4
f) Printing Publishing	120.5	110.8	-8.0	60.4	56.2	-7.0	60.1	54.6	-9.
g) Non-Metallic Mineral									
Products	67.3	55.8	-17.1	34.7	29.2	-15.9	32.7	26.6	-18.
h) Petroleum/Coal Products	479.3	591.3	23.4	257.4	335.9	30.5	221.9	255.4	15.
i) Chemicals and Chemical									
Products	531.6	562.4	5.8	265.9	298.6	12.3	265.7	263.8	-0.
j) Wood	150.6	120.3	-20.1	73.3	62.8	-14.3	77.2	57.5	-25.
k) Furniture and Fixtures	48.2	38.1	-21.0	23.3	22.1	-5.2	24.9	15.9	-36.
I) Paper and Allied	100.0	108.0	8.0	54.0	55.6	3.0	46.1	52.4	13.
m) Transportation Equipment	82.6	111.7	35.2	39.1	43.5	11.3	43.5	68.2	56.
n) Electronic Products	78.5	108.5	38.2	36.2	56.9	57.2	42.3	51.6	22.
o) Other	39.6	46.3	16.9	19.7	22.8	15.7	19.9	23.5	18.

Increases in the value of shipments in seven of fourteen categories were sufficient to offset losses in the remaining segments in February 1991 compared to February 1990, leading to a 3.3% overall gain.



	JANUARY - DECEMBER				NOVEMBER	7	DECEMBER		
			PER-			PER-			PER-
			CENT			CENT			CENT
ENERGY	1989	1990	CHANGE	1989	1990	CHANGE	1989	1990	CHANGE
<u>Alberta</u>									
a) Natural Gas Production									
(millions of cubic metres)	115,595.8	115,022.9	-0.5	9,996.5	9,965.0	-0.3	10,825.5	11,355.5	4.9
b) Crude Oil and Equivalents									
Production (thousands of									
cubic metres)	80,384.8	78,756.3	-2.0	6,809.1	6,765.5	-0.6	6,632.5	6,862.1	3.5

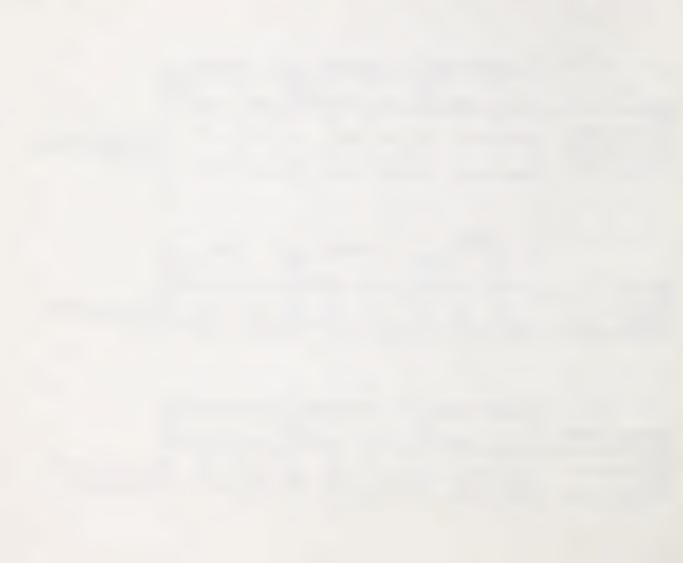
Energy production increased in both categories in December 1990 compared to December 1989.

		AVERAGE							
	JANI	UARY - MA	RCH		FEBRUARY	f .			
			PER-			PER-			PER-
			CENT			CENT			CENT
RIG ACTIVITY	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE
Alberta									
a) Drilling activity	184	204	10.9	199	217	9.0	181	178	-1.7
b) Available	381	359	-5.8	378	356	-5.8	377	357	-5.3
OIL PRICE (W.T.I. \$U.S.)	21.72	21.71	-0.1	22.11	20.54	-7.1	20.41	19.88	-2.6

The number of rigs drilling declined slightly in March 1991 compared to March 1990.

	JANUA	RY - DECE	MBER	JULY	- SEPTEN	MBER	OCTO	BER - DEC	OCTOBER - DECEMBER			
			PER-			PER-			PER-			
AGRICULTURE - Farm Cash			CENT			CENT			CENT			
Receipts (\$millions)	1989	1990	CHANGE	1989	1990	CHANGE	1989	1990	CHANGE			
Alberta								,				
a) Total From Operations	4,532.8	4,201.8	-7.3	1,114.3	1,043.2	-6.4	1,141.8	906.7	-20.6			
b) Crops	1,826.4	1,591.8	-12.8	368.1	331.0	-10.1	408.1	279.3	-31.6			
c) Livestock	2,146.3	2,317.0	8.0	570.0	591.6	3.8	545.5	548.1	0.5			

Farm cash receipts declined in the final quarter of 1990 compared to the same period in 1989.



	JANUARY			DECEMBER	3	JANUARY			
		PER-			PER-			PER-	
		CENT			CENT			CENT	
1990	1991	CHANGE	1989	1990	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE	
1,326.6	1,794.3	35.3	1,184.3	1,629.3	37.6	1,326.6	1,794.3	35.3	
799.5	1,200.7	50.2	729.8	1,059.6	45.2	799.5	1,200.7	50.2	
264.5	355.1	34.3	213.2	295.7	38.7	264.5	355.1	34.3	
58.2	62.1	6.7	48.9	57.2	17.0	58.2	62.1	6.7	
204.4	176.4	-13.7	192.5	216.8	12.6	204.4	176.4	-13.7	
	1,326.6 799.5 264.5 58.2	1990 1991 1,326.6 1,794.3 799.5 1,200.7 264.5 355.1 58.2 62.1	1,326.6 1,794.3 35.3 799.5 1,200.7 50.2 264.5 355.1 34.3 58.2 62.1 6.7	1,326.6 1,794.3 35.3 1,184.3 799.5 1,200.7 50.2 729.8 264.5 355.1 34.3 213.2 58.2 62.1 6.7 48.9	1,326.6 1,794.3 35.3 1,184.3 1,629.3 799.5 1,200.7 50.2 729.8 1,059.6 264.5 355.1 34.3 213.2 295.7 58.2 62.1 6.7 48.9 57.2	PER- CENT PER- PER- CENT PER- PER- PER- PER- CENT PER- PER- 	PER-CENT PER-CENT	PER-CENT 1989 1990 1991 1991 1991 1991 1991 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 199	

With gains posted in all but the 'Other' category, the total value of exports increased by 35.3% in January 1991 compared to January 1990.

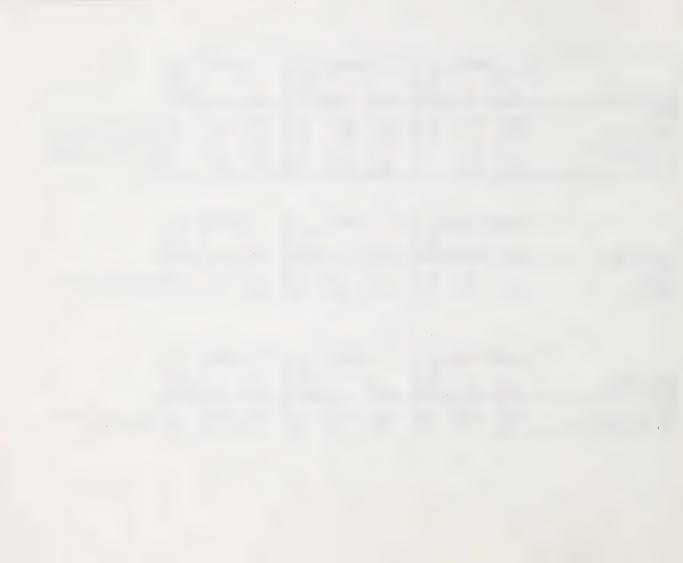
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	JANUA	RY - FEBR	RUARY		JANUARY		FEBRUARY			
			PER-			PER-			PER-	
			CENT			CENT			CENT	
BANKRUPTCIES	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE	
Alberta										
a) Business	181	251	38.7	89	127	42.7	92	123	33.7	
b) Consumer	500	897	79.4	237	464	95.8	263	433	64.6	

Bankruptcies increased in both categories in February.

•	JANUA	ARY - FEBI	RUARY		JANUARY		FEBRUARY			
			PER-			PER-			PER-	
NEW BUSINESS			CENT			CENT			CENT	
INCORPORATIONS	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE	1990	1991	CHANGE	
Alberta										
a)Alberta Corporations	2,884	2,636	-8.6	1,408	1,355	-3.8	1,476	1,281	-13.2	
b)Non-Alberta Corporations	303	264	-12.9	139	127	-8.6	164	137	-16.5	

Incorporations declined in both categories in February.



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 1986=100		ANNUAL	RATES			1990			199	91
(Canada and Selected Cities)	1988	1989	1990	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
a) Canada	108.6	114.0	119.5	119.9	120.2	121.2	121.9	121.8	125.0	125.0
b) Edmonton	107.1	111.8	117.8	118.7	119.1	120.1	120.9	120.5	123.9	122.5
c) Calgary	106.6	110.7	117.6	118.4	118.9	119.7	120.4	120.5	123.9	122.9
d) Halifax	107.4	112.5	118.2	118.6	119.0	119.4	120.7	121.6	124.8	125.0
e) Toronto	110.9	117.9	123.4	123.9	124.0	125.0	125.6	125.1	127.4	127.3
f) Winnipeg	108.5	113.7	118.9	119.4	119.7	120.7	121.3	121.7	124.3	124.1
g) Vancouver	106.8	111.5	117.6	118.1	118.8	119.2	120.1	119.7	123.0	123.2

Upward pressure on prices was moderate to nil in all regions listed in February over January 1991.

	ANN	JAL AVER	RAGE		1990			1991		
EXCHANGE RATES (in \$CDN)	1988	1989	1990	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
a) United States	1.2307	1.1839	1.1668	1.1582	1.1598	1.1631	1.1600	1.1559	1.1546	1.1569
b) Japan	0.0096	0.0086	0.0081	0.0084	0.0090	0.0090	0.0087	0.0087	0.0088	0.0084
c) Germany	0.7027	0.6308	0.7239	0.7378	0.7614	0.7833	0.7755	0.7667	0.7801	0.7205
d) United Kingdom	2.1926	1.9414	2.0824	2.1769	2.2569	2.2853	2.2324	2.2377	2.2680	2.1117
e) France	0.2072	0.1859	0.2148	0.2203	0.2273	0.2326	0.2282	0.2257	0.2292	0.2117

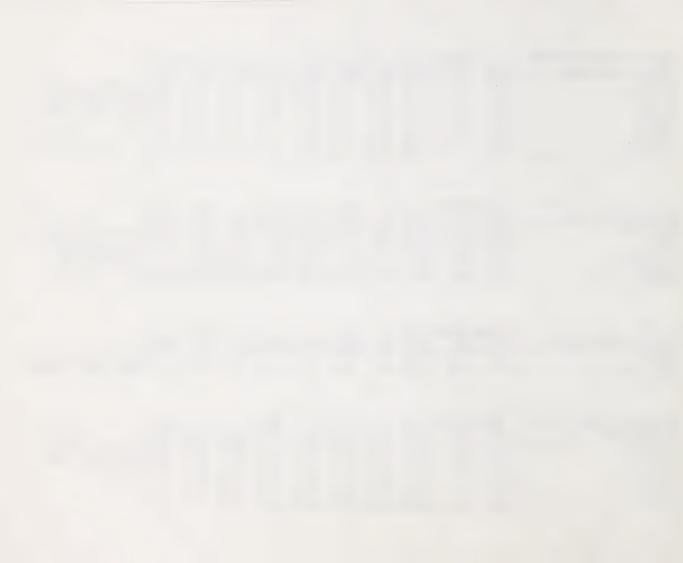
The Canadian dollar increased in value against all currencies listed except the U.S.\$ in March over February 1991.

	ANN	JAL AVEF	RAGE		1990			1991		
INTEREST RATES (Prime Rates)	1988	1989	1990	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
a) Canada	10.80	13.30	14.10	13.75	13.75	13.25	12.75	12.25	11.25	11.25
b) United States	9.40	10.90	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.50	9.50	9.00	9.00

Prime rates were unchanged in both countries in March over February.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 1985=100	ANNU	JAL AVER	AGE	1990							
(Selected Countries)	1988	1989	1990	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
a)Canada	113.1	118.7	124.4	124.1	124.7	124.8	125.1	126.2	126.9	126.9	
b)United States	109.9	115.2	121.4	120.7	121.2	122.4	123.3	124.1	124.3	124.3	
c)Japan	101.4	103.7	107.0	106.5	106.4	106.9	107.9	109.3	108.9	108.9	
d)Germany	101.4	104.2	107.0	106.8	106.8	107.1	107.5	108.2	108.0	108.1	
e)United kingdom	113.0	121.8	133.4	134.0	134.1	135.4	136.7	137.8	137.5	137.4	
f)France	108.8	112.6	116.4	116.0	116.3	117.0	117.6	118.2	118.0	118.0	

Upward pressure on prices was moderate to nil in all countries listed in December.



INTERPROVINCIAL COMPARISON OF ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	ATLANTIC	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	MAN.	SASK.	ALBERTA	B.C.	CANADA	
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE									
(unadjusted)									
a) MARCH 1990	15.7	10.4	6.1	7.7	7.6	6.9	8.3	8.2	Alberta's unemployment rate was the
b) MARCH 1991	18.6	13.9	10.9	10.0	8.6	8.3	11.0	11.7	lowest in Canada in March.
EMPLOYED									
(unadjusted 000's)									
a) MARCH 1990	866	2,972	4,894	498	436	1,215	1,433	12,314	Alberta posted the second highest rate
b) MARCH 1991	851	2,888	4,658	481	436	1,229	1,451	11,994	of growth in employment in March 1991
c) Percent Change	-1.7	-2.8	-4.8	-3.4	0.0	1.2	1.3	-2.6	over March 1990.
TOTAL WAGES AND SALARIES									
(adjusted seasonally \$millions									
a) JANUARY 1990	1,691.2	6,324.8	12,086.0	915.6	703.1	2,597.0	3,240.1	27,719.7	Led by Alberta, wages and salaries
b) JANUARY 1991	1,745.2	6,504.9	12,358.8	932.8	720.2	2,760.2	3,375.5	28,497.1	increased across the country in
c) Percent Change	3.2	2.8	2.3	1.9	2.4	6.3	4.2	2.8	January 1991 over January 1990.
RETAIL TRADE									
(unadjusted \$millions)									
a) JANUARY 1990	1,009	3,239	5,072	457	400	1,396	1,758	13,369	Retail trade declined in all
b) JANUARY 1991	980	2,916	4,573	441	372	1,335	1,633	12,286	Canadian regions in January 1991
c) Percent Change	-2.9	-10.0	-9.8	-3.5	-7.0	-4.4	-7.1	-8.1	compared to January 1990.
MANUFACTURING (value of shipments									
of goods of own manufacture in									
\$millions)									
a) JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1990	2,014.4	11,131.2	23,956.2	1,117.8	571.5	2,953.7	3,909.0	45,663.2	Alberta's rate of growth in manufacturing
a) JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1991	2,226.1	10,520.2	22,251.9	950.0	607.8	3,178.6	3,507.5	43,250.0	shipments was the second highest in the
c) Percent Change	10.5	-5.5	-7.1	-15.0	6.4	7.6	-10.3	-5.3	country from January to February 1991.
AGRICULTURE (Farm Cash Receipts									
from farming operations \$millions)									
a) JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1989	898.9	3,681.5	5,669.2	2,102.2	4,467.7	4,532.8	1,168.5	22,520.7	Only Quebec and B.C. registered im-
b) JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1990	899.2	3,725.5	5,615.4	2,014.0	4,045.9	4,201.8	1,185.7	21,687.4	proved performance in farm cash receipts
c) Percent Change	0.0	1.2	-0.9	-4.2	-9.4	-7.3	1.5	-3.7	in 1990 over 1989.
EXPORTS									
(\$millions)									
a) JANUARY 1990	662.7	1,705.2	4,987.7	285.8	425.2	1,326.6	1,412.9	10,822.7	Alberta posted the highest rate of
b) JANUARY 1991	558.9	1,985.5	4,767.4	246.9	361.5	1,794.3	1,276.8	11,022.5	growth in exports in January 1991
c) Percent Change	-15.7	16.4	-4.4	-13.6	-15.0	35.3	-9.6	1.8	compared to January 1990.

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Policy Development and Coordination Branch 9th Floor, Sterling Place 9940 - 106 Street Edmonton, Alberta Canada T5K 2P6 Telephone: (403) 427-3627 Fax: 427-5922 Printed in Canada 1991